

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Scott Cummings on April 30, 2010.

The application has been amended as follows:

Inserted new paragraph before line 24 of page 6:

Suitable flame-retardant compounds include organophosphorus compounds, melamine and melamine derivatives. Suitable organophosphorus compounds include polyphosphate esters, phosphoric esters or phosphonic esters.

24. (Currently amended) Yarns or fibres made of polymer, said polymer being selected from the group consisting of: polyamide 6, polyamide 6,6, polyamide 4, polyamide 11, polyamide 12, polyamides 4,6, polyamide 6,10, polyamide 6,12, polyamide 6,36, ~~or~~ and polyamide 12,12, said polymer comprising an additive possessing flame-retardant properties composed of at least particles of a solid substrate on which a flame-retardant compound is adsorbed, wherein said substrate is in the form of porous granules or agglomerates before being added to the polymer and said granules or agglomerates exhibit a pore volume of at least 0.5 ml/g.

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37. (Cancelled)

40. (Cancelled)

41. (Cancelled)

42. (Cancelled)

Reasons for Allowance

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

3. In view of Applicant's amendments to the Specification, the Examiner withdraws the objection to the Specification as detailed in paragraph 3 of the previous Office Action dated November 27, 2009. It should be noted that the amendments are supported by the originally filed claims.

4. In view of Applicant's amendment to claim 32, the Examiner withdraws the claim objection as detailed in paragraph 4 of the previous Office Action dated November 27, 2009.

5. In view of the cancellation of claim 37 by way of Examiner's amendment, the Examiner withdraws the 35 USC 112, 2nd paragraph rejection as detailed in paragraphs 6 – 7 of the previous Office Action dated November 27, 2009.

6. The closest prior art, Atarashi et al. (US 6,025,421), teaches an inorganic filler surface-treated with a phosphate and an aromatic orthophosphate which is incorporated into a thermoplastic resin, however, Atarashi et al. fail to teach or suggest that the inorganic filler exhibits a pore volume of at least 0.5 ml/g which

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is a level of high porosity which allows the flame retardant compound to be absorbed into the filler. An updated art search did not produce any new substantial art for which to base a rejection and presently no motivation exists to combine references to render the claimed invention obvious.

7. The Examiner's amendments above were done to avoid any lack of antecedent basis issues to the Specification and to clarify the claims. It should be noted that the amendments to the Specification are supported by the originally filed claims.

8. As such, claims 24 – 27, 30 – 34, 39, 44 - 45 are found allowable over the prior art of record.

9. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JENNIFER A. CHRISS whose telephone number is (571)272-7783. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 6 p.m., first Friday off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Larry Tarazano can be reached on 571-272-1515. The

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fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Jennifer A Chriss/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1786

/J. A. C./
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1786

